

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 12-18 are canceled.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance, as all rejected claims are canceled; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration as only allowed claims remain in the application; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for an appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus, respectfully requested.

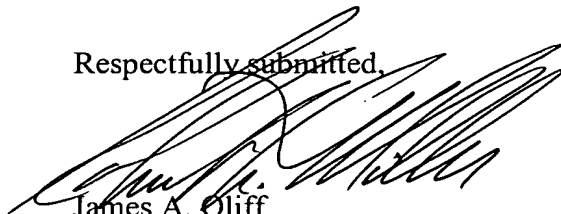
In paragraph 7, on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-11 were indicated as allowed. Claims 12-18 are canceled, and thus, the only claims remaining in the application are the allowed claims.

In paragraph 2, on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 12-14, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sasaki, U.S. Patent No. 5,547,568; in paragraph 4, claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki in view of Bivens, U.S. Patent No. 5,595,107; and in paragraph 5, on page 3 of the Office Action, claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki in view of Yoshida et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,409,608. The rejections have been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 12-18.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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